

UR committee approves them as necessary for planning for post-discharge care.

(b) *Failure to make timely utilization review.* Payment may not be made for inpatient hospital services or posthospital SNF care furnished, after the 20th consecutive day of a stay, to an individual who is admitted to the hospital or SNF after CMS has determined that the hospital or SNF has failed to make timely utilization review in long stay cases. (This provision does not apply to a hospital or SNF for which a QIO has assumed binding review.)

[53 FR 6635, Mar. 2, 1988; 53 FR 12945, Apr. 20, 1988]

Subpart B—Certification and Plan Requirements

§ 424.10 Purpose and scope.

(a) *Purpose.* The physician has a major role in determining utilization of health services furnished by providers. The physician decides upon admissions, orders tests, drugs, and treatments, and determines the length of stay. Accordingly, sections 1814(a)(2) and 1835(a)(2) of the Act establish as a condition for Medicare payment that a physician certify the necessity of the services and, in some instances, recertify the continued need for those services.

Section 1814(a)(2) of the Act also permits nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, or physician assistants to certify and recertify the need for post-hospital extended care services.

(b) *Scope.* This subpart sets forth the timing, content, and signature requirements for certification and recertification with respect to certain Medicare services furnished by providers.

[60 FR 38271, July 26, 1995, as amended at 78 FR 47968, Aug. 6, 2013]

§ 424.11 General procedures.

(a) *Responsibility of the provider.* The provider must—

(1) Obtain the required certification and recertification statements;

(2) Keep them on file for verification by the intermediary, if necessary; and

(3) Certify, on the appropriate billing form, that the statements have been obtained and are on file.

(b) *Obtaining the certification and recertification statements.* No specific procedures or forms are required for certification and recertification statements. The provider may adopt any method that permits verification. The certification and recertification statements may be entered on forms, notes, or records that the appropriate individual signs, or on a special separate form. Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section for delayed certifications, there must be a separate signed statement for each certification or recertification.

(c) *Required information.* The succeeding sections of this subpart set forth specific information required for different types of services. If that information is contained in other provider records, such as physicians' progress notes, it need not be repeated. It will suffice for the statement to indicate where the information is to be found.

(d) *Timeliness.* (1) The succeeding sections of this subpart also specify the timeframes for certification and for initial and subsequent recertifications.

(2) A hospital or SNF may provide for obtaining a certification or recertification earlier than required by these regulations or vary the timeframe (within the prescribed outer limits) for different diagnostic or clinical categories.

(3) Delayed certification and recertification statements are acceptable when there is a legitimate reason for delay. (For instance, the patient was unaware of his or her entitlement when he or she was treated.) Delayed certification and recertification statements must include an explanation of the reasons for the delay.

(4) A delayed certification may be included with one or more recertifications on a single signed statement.

(5) For all inpatient hospital or critical access hospital inpatient services, including inpatient psychiatric facility services, a delayed certification may not extend past discharge.

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(e) *Limitation on authorization to sign statements.* A certification or recertification statement may be signed only by one of the following:

(1) A physician who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.

(2) A dentist in the circumstances specified in § 424.13(d).

(3) A doctor of podiatric medicine if his or her certification is consistent with the functions he or she is authorized to perform under State law.

(4) A nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist as defined in paragraph (e)(5) or (e)(6) of this section, or a physician assistant as defined in section 1861(aa)(5)(A) of the Act, in the circumstances specified in § 424.20(e).

(5) For purposes of this section, to qualify as a nurse practitioner, an individual must—

(i) Be a registered professional nurse who is currently licensed to practice nursing in the State where he or she practices; be authorized to perform the services of a nurse practitioner in accordance with State law; and have a master's degree in nursing;

(ii) Be certified as a nurse practitioner by a professional association recognized by CMS that has, at a minimum, eligibility requirements that meet the standards in paragraph (e)(5)(i) of this section; or

(iii) Meet the requirements for a nurse practitioner set forth in paragraph (e)(5)(i) of this section, except for the master's degree requirement, and have received before August 25, 1998 a certificate of completion from a formal advanced practice program that prepares registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care.

(6) For purposes of this section, to qualify as a clinical nurse specialist, an individual must—

(i) Be a registered professional nurse who is currently licensed to practice nursing in the State where he or she practices; be authorized to perform the services of a clinical nurse specialist in accordance with State law; and have a master's degree in a defined clinical area of nursing;

(ii) Be certified as a clinical nurse specialist by a professional association recognized by CMS that has at a minimum, eligibility requirements that

meet the standards in paragraph (e)(6)(i) of this section; or

(iii) Meet the requirements for a clinical nurse specialist set forth in paragraph (e)(6)(i) of this section, except for the master's degree requirement, and have received before August 25, 1998 a certificate of completion from a formal advanced practice program that prepares registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary care.

[53 FR 6634, Mar. 2, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 8845, Mar. 1, 1991; 60 FR 38272, July 26, 1995; 78 FR 47968, Aug. 6, 2013; 78 FR 50969, Aug. 19, 2013]

§ 424.13 Requirements for inpatient services of hospitals other than inpatient psychiatric facilities.

(a) *Content of certification and recertification.* Certification begins with the order for inpatient admission. Medicare Part A pays for inpatient hospital services (other than inpatient psychiatric facility services) only if a physician certifies and recertifies the following:

(1) That the services were provided in accordance with § 412.3 of this chapter.

(2) The reasons for either—

(i) Hospitalization of the patient for inpatient medical treatment or medically required inpatient diagnostic study; or

(ii) Special or unusual services for cost outlier cases (under the prospective payment system set forth in subpart F of part 412 of this chapter).

(3) The estimated time the patient will need to remain in the hospital.

(4) The plans for posthospital care, if appropriate.

(b) *Timing of certification.* For all hospital inpatient admissions, the certification must be completed, signed, and documented in the medical record prior to discharge. For outlier cases under subpart F of Part 412 of this chapter that are not subject to the PPS, the certification must be signed and documented in the medical record and as specified in paragraphs (e) through (h) of this section.

(c) *Certification of need for hospitalization when a SNF bed is not available.* (1) The physician may certify or recertify need for continued hospitalization if he